

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic messaging method utilizing a computer server electronically linked to at least one source of data and to a communication network for communicating with individuals, said method comprising the steps of:

a. monitoring the at least one source of data for content information related to risk events;

b. analyzing the content information to identify risk events related to a group of said individuals, and

c. issuing an electronic message regarding the identified risk event to said group.

2. An electronic messaging method as in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the at least one source of data includes a plurality of data sources, and in step (b) the plurality of data sources are regularly monitored for content information.

3. An electronic messaging method as in claim 1 wherein the monitoring of at least one data source is performed continually.

4. An electronic messaging method as in claim 1 wherein the monitoring of at least one data source is performed by periodically polling the data source.

5. An electronic messaging method as in claim 1 wherein the identification of the risk event is performed by a scope analyzer that determines if the content information relates to said individuals.

6. An electronic messaging method as in claim 1 wherein the monitoring of at least one data source includes

sequentially monitoring a plurality of data sources in accordance with a data source polling priority determined by an access control program.

7. An electronic messaging method as in claim 6 wherein the access control program employs a plurality of polling protocols for accessing the plurality of data sources.

8. An electronic messaging method as in claim 6 wherein the access control program determines the polling priority based at least in part on the content information in each of said plurality of data sources.

9. An electronic messaging method as in claim 6 wherein the access control program determines a polling frequency for each of said plurality of data sources.

10. An electronic message method as in claim 9 wherein the access control program determines the polling frequency based on an expected impact of the risk event upon the individuals.

11. An electronic message method as in claim 1 wherein analyzing the content information is performed with a scope analyzer.

12. An electronic message method as in claim 11 wherein the scope analyzer correlates content information with one or more of said individuals.

13. An electronic message method as in claim 1 wherein the individuals are subscribers to an electronic message service.

14. An electronic message method as in claim 1 further comprising the step (e) of repeating steps (a) to (b) to generate a second electronic message regarding a second risk before completing the issuance of a first electronic message regarding a first risk; (f) determining that the second electronic message has priority over the first electronic message, and (g) suspending issuance of the first electronic message to issue the second electronic message.

15. An electronic messaging system comprising:

a computer server electronically linked to a plurality of data sources, each of said data sources having content information regarding risk events;

said computer server including an access control program to collect said content information from said data sources, a scope analyzer program to match one or more of said risk events to one subscriber of the electronic messaging system, and a content engine that generates electronic messages regarding said one or more of said risk events and sends said messages to said one or more groups of subscribers via a communications network.

16. An electronic messaging system as in claim 15 wherein the computer server further comprises a risk analyzer that prioritizes said one or more risk events, and causes said content engine to first issue said messages regarding a high priority risk event.

17. An electronic messaging system as in claim 15 wherein said scope analyzer includes protocol routines for accessing said data sources.

18. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said scope analyzer periodically polls each of said data sources.

19. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said scope analyzer continually monitors each of said data sources.

20. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said scope analyzer polls said data sources at a polling frequency dependent on a priority assigned to each of said data sources.

21. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said data sources are remote from the server, and a wide area network links said data sources to said server.

22. An electronic message system as in claim 21 wherein said wide area network is an Internet.

23. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said data sources include a geological activity survey data source and a weather data source.

24. An electronic message system as in claim 15 wherein said content engine is electronically linked to a public sender interface, wherein said interface includes a user terminal to accept manual entry of messages to be sent by the content engine.

25. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages from a computer network comprising the steps of:

a. accessing a computer terminal to enter information regarding a subscriber including a geographic address of the subscriber and an electronic address of the subscriber;

b. storing the information regarding said subscriber in a subscriber database linked to said network, wherein said database includes information regarding a plurality of subscribers;

c. monitoring a plurality sources of data for content information related to risk events;

d. analyzing the content information and the subscriber database to identify a risk event geographically proximate to the geographic address of one or more of the subscribers, and

e. issuing an electronic message regarding the risk event to said one or more subscribers proximate to the event.

26. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 wherein said subscriber database is a preexisting database of subscribers to an organization.

27. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 26 wherein said preexisting database of subscribers is a plurality of databases of subscribers to different organizations.

28. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 wherein the plurality of data sources are periodically polled for content information.

29. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 wherein the plurality of data sources are continually monitored for content information.

30. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 wherein the identification of the risk event is performed by a scope analyzer that determines if the content information relates to one or more groups of subscribers.

31. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 wherein the monitoring of data sources includes sequentially monitoring of data sources in accordance with a data source polling priority determined by an access control program.

32. A method for subscribing and receiving emergency electronic messages as in claim 25 further comprising the step (f) of repeating steps (c) to (e) to generate a second electronic message regarding a second risk before completing the issuance of a first electronic message regarding a first risk; (g) determining that the second electronic message has priority over the first electronic message, and (h) suspending issuance of the first electronic message to issue the second electronic message.

33. An electronic messaging method utilizing a computer server electronically linked to at least one source of data and to a communication network for communicating with individuals, said method comprising the steps of:

a. monitoring the at least one source of data for content information related to risk events;

b. analyzing the content information to identify risk events related to a group of said individuals;

c. generating a first electronic message regarding the identified risk event to said group, wherein said first electronic message is intended for a first type of electronic communication device;

d. generating an alternative electronic message regarding the identified risk event to said group, wherein said alternative electronic message is intended for a second type of communication device;

e. sending the first electronic message to those individuals of said group known to have the first type of electronic communication device, and

f. sending the second electronic message to those individuals of said group known to have the second type of electronic communication device.

34. An electronic messaging method as in claim 33 further comprising the step of prioritizing such that messages to the first type of electronic communication device are sent before messages sent to the second type of electronic communication device.

35. An electronic messaging method as in claim 34 wherein prioritization is determined, at least in part, based on the type of electronic communication device to receive the message.

36. An electronic messaging method as in claim 33 further comprising the steps of determining a message priority based on electronic communication device, and prioritizing such that messages to one type of electronic communication

device are sent before messages sent to another type of electronic communication device.

37. An electronic messaging method as in claim 33 wherein said first type of electronic communication device is a pager and the second type of electronic communication device is a computer.